

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04332 111213Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SY-05 MCT-01 /055 W
-----004823 111217Z /53

O R 111047Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3863
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
LFQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 4766
WPEMBAFUY CAIRIS2739
(AMCONSUL JERUSALEM410
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 4332

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS SY
SUBJ: JULY 10 EXPLOSION

1. SYRIA MEDIA GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO EXPLOSION OF
BOBBY-TRAPPED CAR IN CROWDED DOWNTOWN AREA OF DAMASCUS AT
1430 LOCAL JULY 10. EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE ONLY A FEW YARDS
FROM SITE WHERE SCAFFOLDS ARE TRADITIONALLY ERECTED FOR
OFFICIAL SYRIAN GOVERNMENT EXECUTIONS IN MARJEH SQUARE
AND DIAGONALLY ACROSS STREET FROM MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

2. FLAVOR OF MEDIA COVERAGE IS CONTAINED IN HEADLINE OF
JULY 10 AL-BAATH: "BAGHDAD ASSASSINS CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY
FOR A NEW SAVAGE CRIME. BOOBY-TRAPPED CAR EXPLODES IN
MARJEH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 04332 111213Z

SQUARE WITH 55 CITIZENS KILLED AND WOUNDED. EXPLOSION
CAUSED SEVERE DAMAGE TO MOSQUE, HOTEL AND A NUMBER OF
SHOPS AND STORES. THE CRIME REFLECTS THE BLOODY, CRIMINAL
NATURE OF THE BAGHDAD RULERS AND THEIR QUEST FOR VENGEANCE
AGAINST SYRIA AND ITS PEOPLE." ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE
DETAILED THAT IN ADDITION TO TWO VICTIMS KILLED INSTANTLY,
34 HAD BEEN HOSPITALIZED BUT SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED AND 19

OTHERS REMAINED HOSPITALIZED HQITH WOUNDS, TWO OF THEM CRITICALLY. CAR WHICH WAS COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED WAS DESCRIBED AS DATSUN WITH GERMAN LICENSE PLATE WHICH HAD ENTERED COUNTRY IN TRANSIT ON JULY 4.

3. MEDIA REPORTED THAT IRAQI NEWS AGENCY BROADCAST EVENING JULY 10 HAD CARRIED COMMUNIQUE OF "ORGANIZATION OF SYRIAN REVOLUTIONARIES" WHICH HAD CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXPLOSION. SARG WAS QUICK TO PLACE ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXPLOSION AT DOOR OF IRAQI REGIME STRESSING ALSO THAT INTENDED VICTIMS WERE INNOCENT MEMBERS OF SYRIAN POPULACE.

3. COMMENT:

THIS IS SECOND BOOBY-TRAPPED CAR EXPLOSION IN DAMASCUS WITHIN PAST WEEK. BOTH EXPLOSIONS SEEMED AIMED AT EMBARRASSING SYRCEN SECURITY SRVICES, FIRST HAVING TAKEN PLACE CLOSE TO AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS AND SECOND ACROSS STREET FROM MINISTRY Q INTERGNJ. IF SECOND EXPLOSION WAS INTENDED TO OCCUR WHEN IT DID, SHORTLY AFTER SYRIAN OFFICES CLOSED AND IN CROWDED DOWNTOWN SQUARE, IT INDICATES THAT PERPETRATORS ARE MORE VICIOUSLY MOTIVATED THAN THOSE REYLONSIBLE FOR MOST OTHER BOMBINGS LAST SUMMER AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DAMASC 04332 111213Z

BEFORE. IN MOST CASES PAST BOMBS WERE SET TO EXPLODE AT PLACES AND TIMES AWAY FROM LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE. GENERAL FEELING IS THAT SMALL, DETERMINED GROUP WHICH APPEARS TO BE BEHIND THESE EXPLOSIONYFWILL BE DIFFICULT TO APPREHEND AND DAMASCUS IS LIKELY TO WITNESS FURTHER SUCH INDICATIONS OF VIOLENCE IN COMING WEEKS. MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLOSIANS, CASUALTIES, ALLEGATIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC04332
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770245-0931
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770772/aaaacksd.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b31f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1907758
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JULY 10 EXPLOSION
TAGS: PINS, SY, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b31f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009